

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

AUGUST 2, 2005

Children left unattended in or around vehicles are at risk of dehydration, abduction, injury, and death. "Kaitlyn's Law," passed by the California State Legislature June 6, 2001, was named for Tammy Russell's 6-month-old daughter, Kaitlyn Marie Russell, who died when a babysitter left her alone for 2 hours in a hot car. The law makes it illegal to leave children 6 years old and younger alone in cars unless supervised by someone at least 12 years of age.

It is imperative for the public to be aware of young children left in cars and to immediately notify law enforcement or emergency personnel, especially during the hot summer months. Even on a mild 70-degree day, and with windows slightly rolled down, the temperature inside a car can exceed 120 degrees in 20 minutes and 150-degrees in 40 minutes. Cracking the windows of the car to let air in is ineffective -- especially with younger children who have greater sensitivity to heat compared to older children or adults.

In September of 2000, Tammy Russell initiated "4 R Kids Sake," a nation-wide, non profit organization whose mission is to protect our children from preventable injuries and death in and around cars through awareness, education, legislation, and product redesign. The organization is commemorating the month of August 2005 as "Purple Ribbon Month" to remind the public to never leave children unattended in cars -- not even for a minute.

--MORE--

MOTION

BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
MOLINA	_____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Proclaim the month of August 2005 as “Purple Ribbon Month” throughout Los Angeles County in memory of Kaitlyn Marie Russell and all of the children that have lost their lives to preventable injuries in and around cars, and encourage all residents to never leave children alone in a car, not even for a minute; and
2. Direct the Department of Health Services, Public Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Program, to continue the education of residents through Public Service Announcements and educational information to alert parents and caregivers to the dangers of leaving children alone in and around cars.

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MDA:tbc